**Vacant posts of doctors and para medical staff**

589. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of posts of doctors and para medical staff are lying vacant in Central Government run hospitals across the country;

(b) if so, by when these posts are likely to be filled; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There are indeed a few vacancies due to normal Wastages like retirements/resignations and action to fill up these vacancies is a continuous on-going process. Wherever necessary, appointment on adhoc/contract basis is also permitted to ensure that working of the hospital is not affected.

**Chemicals in cola drinks**

†590. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cold drinks like Pepsi Cola, Coca Cola and others use various chemicals and other compounds;

(b) if so, the names of such chemicals and compounds alongwith their quantity;

(c) whether in these cold drinks, such things are being used which are very injurious to health;

(d) whether all the chemicals and compounds being used in these cold drinks have been got tested; and

(e) whether this would be made obligatory for the cold drink manufacturers to mention the names and quantities of chemicals and compounds, used in the cold drinks, on each container?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) The products Coca-Cola and Pepsi cola are covered under the standards of Carbonated Water prescribed under the PFA Rules, 1955. A copy of the standards of Carbonated Water which provides the details of the different ingredients and additives and their permissible level in the final product, is enclosed as statement. (*See* below). The labeling provisions have also been prescribed under PFA Rules.

The name and quantity of each chemical or compounds used need not be inscribed on the Container.

The PFA Act, 1954 & Rules made there under are implemented by the State/UT Governments, who draw regular samples of various food products including carbonated water and take appropriate action under PFA Rules, 1955, if the samples are found not confirming with the standards under PFA Rules, 1955.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.